

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OEXA 82-1498/A

82-1631/1

09 JUL 1982

Honorable Richard L. Ottinger
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Ottinger:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of 18 June 1982 concerning the Freedom of Information Act request submitted by the Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights on 11 March 1982. This request seeks any information that may be located in the files of the Central Intelligence Agency relating to the deaths of four churchwomen in El Salvador in December 1980, or to any investigations into those deaths which have taken place since that time.

If any of the Agency's responses have led you to have any doubts about the manner in which this request is being handled, please let me assure you that the CIA fully intends to comply with the spirit and intent of the Freedom of Information Act.

My Office of General Counsel has reviewed this request and determined that based on the humanitarian aspects of the subject, the request is to be handled on a priority basis. I am informed that all components have completed their searches. A number of documents were retrieved and are now under review to ensure the release of all non-exempt information. You may be assured that this Agency will release all information possible. The only limitation likely to be imposed on my ability to release such information would come out of my statutory responsibility to protect intelligence sources and methods.

I have been advised that the review and determinations to be made on the material located should be completed soon.

Thank you for writing to me on this matter and please extend my deepest sympathies to the families of the slain women.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

cc: Honorable Mary Rose Oakar
Honorable Peter Peyser

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LLD:ME:rjg (29 June 82)